

CLAIMS

Please make the changes to the claims as shown below:

1. (Original) Direct methanol fuel cell apparatus comprising:
 - a fuel container;
 - an anode adjacent the fuel container;
 - a proton exchange membrane adjacent the anode;
 - a cathode adjacent the proton exchange membrane;
 - an oxygen supply adjacent the cathode;
 - the fuel container containing methanol in water at a first concentration;
 - a cartridge selectively communicatively coupled with the fuel container;
 - the cartridge containing fluid comprising methanol in water at a second concentration, the second concentration higher than the first concentration.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second concentration is at least double the first concentration.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the second concentration is at least triple the first concentration.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the selective communicative coupling comprises a pushing pin by a human user, said pin puncturing the cartridge.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the selective communicative coupling comprises a pump actuatable by electronic means, said pump pumping fluid from the cartridge to the container.
6. (Previously presented) A method for use with a direct methanol fuel cell, the method comprising the steps of:
 - bringing a first solution of methanol in water at a first concentration into contact with an anode, the first solution contained within a container;

bringing oxygen into contact with a cathode, the cathode adjacent a proton exchange membrane and the proton exchange membrane adjacent the anode;

at a later time, bringing a cartridge into communicative coupling with the container, the volume of the container being greater than the volume of the cartridge, the cartridge containing a second solution of methanol in water at a second concentration, the second concentration higher than the first concentration.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the second concentration is at least double the first concentration.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the second concentration is at least triple the first concentration.
9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of bringing the cartridge into communicative coupling with the container comprises a human user pushing a pin, said pin puncturing the cartridge.
10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of bringing the cartridge into communicative coupling with the container comprises actuating a pump, said pump pumping fluid from the cartridge to the container.
11. (Original) Direct methanol fuel cell apparatus comprising:
 - a fuel container;
 - an anode adjacent the fuel container;
 - a proton exchange membrane adjacent the anode;
 - a cathode adjacent the proton exchange membrane;
 - an oxygen supply adjacent the cathode;
 - the fuel container containing methanol in water; and
 - a stirrer within the fuel container.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising electronics operating the stirrer at intervals as a function of measurements made regarding the fuel cell apparatus.

13. (Previously presented) A method for use with a direct methanol fuel cell, the method comprising the steps of:

bringing a solution of methanol in water at a first concentration into contact with an anode, the solution contained within a container;

bringing oxygen into contact with a cathode, the cathode adjacent a proton exchange membrane and the proton exchange membrane adjacent the anode;

at a later time, stirring the solution wherein the stirring occurs as a result of stirring by a stirrer contained within the container.

14. (Previously presented) A method for use with a direct methanol fuel cell, the method comprising the steps of:

bringing a solution of methanol in water at a first concentration into contact with an anode, the solution contained within a container;

bringing oxygen into contact with a cathode, the cathode adjacent a proton exchange membrane and the proton exchange membrane adjacent the anode;

at a later time, stirring the solution, wherein the stirring occurs as a result of a human user moving the fuel cell while it is in use.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) Direct methanol fuel cell apparatus comprising:

a fuel container;

an anode adjacent the fuel container;

a proton exchange membrane adjacent the anode;

a cathode adjacent the proton exchange membrane;

an oxygen supply adjacent the cathode;

the fuel container containing methanol in water at a first concentration;

a cartridge selectively communicatively coupled with the fuel container;

the fuel container having a greater volume than that of the cartridge;

the cartridge containing fluid comprising methanol in water at a second concentration, the second concentration higher than the first concentration.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 4 further comprising a safety lock serving to prevent inadvertent pushing of the pin.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 4 further characterized in that the pin is movable in relation to the fuel container.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim [[19]]1 further characterized in that the cartridge selectively communicatively coupled with the fuel container is stationary with respect to the fuel container.